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School Committee Special Meeting Minutes 03/06/2014

Approved by the Arlington School Committee, March 27, 2014

*Arlington School Committee
Special School Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014
7:30 p.m.
School Committee Room
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

*Present: Mr. Judson Pierce, Chair, Mr. William Hayner, Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks, Secretary,
Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Heigham, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, and Dr. Kirsie Allison-Ampe*

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education, AAA Representative and Student Representative.

Ms. Hanson arrived at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Pierce held a moment of silence for Mr. Harry McCabe, former moderator of Arlington Town Meeting from 1977 to 1989 and former selectman from 1972 to 1975 who died Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

Superintendent Bodie's Recommendation on Special Education Director

Dr. Bodie recommended and introduced Ms. Alison Elmer to the full committee tonight, where Ms. Elmer answered the committee's questions especially the issue on customer service within the Special Education Department. Ms. Elmer said she will research policy and bring this forward to her team, teachers and parents.

The committee heard of Ms. Elmer's prior work experiences and thanked her for attending this evening.

Ms. Heigham moved to table Programmatic Needs Report of Arlington High School, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

The committee moved to the Policies and Procedures agenda items:

Policies & Procedures Subcommittee Meeting Update

Mr. Thielman moved to approve and adopt the second reading of Policy KEB (Public Complaints) and the elimination of policies KE (Public Complaints), KE-E (Public Complaints), KEB (Public Complaints about School Personnel – current version), and KEB-R (Public Complaints about School Personnel), seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Thielman moved to approve the second reading to eliminate Policy H (Negotiations), HG (Method of Determining Staff Negotiating Organizations), and JFABA (Kindergarten Fee Policy), seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Thielman presented the first reading of the elimination of BEDHA (Escalating Issues) and GBK (Staff Complaints and Grievances). Mr. Thielman informed the committee of the next Policies and Procedures Subcommittee meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. and said that they will have a conversation with Attorney Bryant on additional district policies and provide an update to the full committee on Thursday, March 27th.

Ms. Heigham moved to remove from the table Programmatic Needs Report of Arlington High School, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Programmatic Needs Report of Arlington High School (Goal 4)

Superintendent Bodie introduced Ms. Lori Cowles, HMFH Architect who worked on the Thompson Elementary School project and explained that she had hired her once again to work on the high school reports. The presentation prepared by HMFH Architects, Inc. includes the Analysis Presentation on Arlington High School, classroom pictures taken by David Moore, programmatic space issues, space needs, safety and security diagrams, as well as facility conditions and enrollment projections. The Onsite Insight Report was also presented to the full committee. Lori pointed out that the Onsite Insight Report does not look at education needs but is useful to know what state the internal systems, roof and structure are in. Once the Statement of Interest is complete, the MSBA will notify us by May if we can move forward on the project.

Mr. Thielman and the committee thanked Lori Cowles on the presentation. A very preliminary cost to build the high school was given, and based on other schools built, it was estimated at about 90-130 million dollars, but warned that that cost will go up with time and costs. Dr. Bodie informed the committee that very specific language is needed to submit the Statement of Interest by April 11, 2014, and the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen need to approve the Statement of Interest before being submitted. The committee continued to discuss the process and the steps involved to get to each priority on the Statement of Interest. Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the committee could vote to submit the SOI tonight, and still be able to receive committee member's input on the SOI before it is submitted to MSBA.

Mr. Schlichtman moved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 6th, the Arlington School Committee of The Town of Arlington, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 26, 2014 for the Arlington High School located at 869 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 3: Prevention of the loss of accreditation. Priority 4: Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments. Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0 unanimous

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, specifically to discuss the contract of the Special Education Director, exiting only for purposes of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/css

I hereby certify this is a true record.

ATTEST: _____

Karen M. Fitzgerald

ATTEST: _____

Judson L. Pierce

Chair, Arlington School Committee